

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00419 130907Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7247

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0419

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA

SUBJ: US-JAPAN PLANNING TALKS

REF: STATE 1932

1. FONOFF WOULD PREFER PLANNING TALKS BE HELD MARCH 26-28. PLANNING DIVISION DEPDIR ARAFUNE ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THAT COMMENTS ON PAPER TOPICS AND DEADLINES WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON.

2. TACHIBANA'S REPLACEMENT IS SLATED TO BE HIDEO KAGAMI, CURRENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AND OCEANIC AFFAIRS BUREAU. BORN IN 1923 AND GRADUATED FROM TOKYO UNIVERSITY IN 1948, KAGAMI JOINED FONOFF IN 1949 AND HAS SINCE SERVED IN MOFA SECRETARIAT, TREATIES BUREAU, FRANCE, EUROPEAN BUREAU, SOVIET UNION, IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY, UNGA DELEGATION (1969), AND CAMBODIA. KAGAMI STUDIED ENGLISH IN AMERICA AND SPEAKS IT FLUENTLY. HIS FRENCH IS ALSO GOOD.

3. KAGAMI'S REPUTATION AMONG HIS PEERS IS SOLID BUT NOT SPECTACULAR. NOT THE INCISIVE, IMAGINATIVE THINKER THAT MANY OF HIS PEERS MIGHT IDEALLY PICK FOR THE JOB, HE IS NEVERTHELESS A COMPETENT AND EXPERIENCED OFFICER. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE TALKED WITH KAGAMI HAVE FOUND HIM RELAXED, AFFABLE, AND INTELLECTUALLY AT HOME WITH THE CONCEPTS AND PROBLEMS COVERED IN THE PLANNING TALKS.

4. KAGAMI'S APPOINTMENT IS STILL TENTATIVE AND NOT DUE TO BE ANNOUNCED FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

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5. KITAMURA'S REPLACEMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING DIVISION HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND. HIS APPOINTMENT TO BE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY WAS SO SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED THAT FONOFF PERSONNEL HAS YET TO UNCOVER A SUITABLE LONG -TERM PROSPECT. FONOFF SOURCES SPECULATE THAT FIRST REPLACEMENT MAY BE TEMPORARY STOP-GAP WHILE SEARCH FOR RIGHT MAN GOES ON. IN MEANTIME, ARAFUNE RUNS PLANNING DIVISION, AS HE HAS IN EFFECT FOR PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.
HODGSON

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